

PRESS RELEASE

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Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Elasha Young, 20, Madison, Wis., was sentenced yesterday by U.S. District Judge Barbara Crabb to 24 months in prison for knowingly and intentionally possessing another person's identification in relation to another felony offense. Young pleaded guilty to this charge on December 10, 2007.

The charges against Young stemmed from an interstate scheme to defraud banks using stolen credit cards and drivers licenses. Young, and others, entered banks and approached a teller. Young presented a credit card and asked for a cash advance. In each case the credit card was initially denied when processed. After the credit card was denied the teller then was urged to call an 800 number. After the teller called the number, Ms. Young involved herself in a conversation with the subject on the other end of the phone, an un-known co-conspirator posing as a representative of the credit-card company, arguing her position to allow the cash advance. The person on the other end of the phone then provided the teller with information that persuaded the teller to gain off-line authorization on the credit card allowing a cash advance to be made.

Young engaged in this scheme knowing that the information provided to the

tellers was false because it was not authorized by the credit card company.

The charges against Young were the result of an investigation conducted by the Janesville Police Department, the Town of Beloit Police Department, and the U.S. Secret Service. The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephen Ehlke.

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